

October 2022 Newsletter



Pastor Carlin's Page

Bounce Back

Today we hear a lot of talk in both the secular and religious worlds about success. The vast majority of this talk revolves around money, and physical success. Those who teach on the subject and their adherents are all about the mountaintop experience. And they act as if once on top of the heap one will always remain there. To even venture that success could ever be a waning thing would totally undermine their approach and bring the wrath of their followers down upon them.

However, anyone who has lived for just a few years should know that life is full of ups and downs. Scripture even alludes to this truth. Ecclesiastes, Job along with most of the poetry and wisdom literature in the Bible speaks of this fact of life. "Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity," Says Qohelet (Jewish Name of the Writer of Ecclesiastes). Even a man as synonymous with victory and success as General George Patton understood this inevitability. One of his guiding life and leadership principles according to Porter B. Williamson was that "Success is how you bounce on the bottom."

In effect how do you cope when you are no longer on top and all seems to have failed? Do we get back up again, learn from our failure or do we just give up. Those who rely on Christ and have a solid grasp of scripture and have not given heed to the latest pop Christian fade of false prosperity and success know from where their help and strength come. It comes from Christ Jesus and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Christ goes with us at our lowest moments and helps us to recover and yes even some times find success and prosperity through the proverbial valley.

During my lowest times, when life has dumped its weight upon me and all seems to be crashing down around me, I turn to scripture and find healing, life and true hope in its pages. The story of Job, Daniel, David, and most certainly of Jesus himself encourage me and help me see the forest for the trees.

Life is not always lived on the mountaintop and often is cruel and weighty. However, when I turn to Christ, I can bounce back from the bottom time after time after time and never truly hit rock bottom.

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

Pastor Carlin



Ecclesiastes, 1: 2, NRSV.

Williamson, Porter, B. "General Patton's Principles for Life and Leadership," Management & Systems Consultants, Inc. Tucson, 2009.

BLOODMOBILE.....

"sponsored by First Lutheran Church" and held at Pontiac Community Center (formerly Don's Red Fox)

On Wednesday, November 23 the bloodmobile will be at the above location and we will be in need of: Workers, food and supplies and a sign-up sheet will be on the clipboard soon. More specific information on the needed food/drink items will be forthcoming. Please watch First Notes (& clipboards) for additional information.

First Lutheran Foundation Committee accepting applications for grants

The purpose of the Foundation Committee is to enable First Lutheran Church to fund specific projects, which will support its mission and ensure its financial stability. The Committee will seek to provide a perpetual source of income for the benefit of the following five categories of ministry:

1. Mission and Benevolence: local, regional, and global projects.
2. Education: parish education and college (starting your sophomore year) and seminary scholarships.
3. Youth: support of programs for youth
4. Worship and Music: enhancement of worship and music programs.
5. Capital Projects: major acquisitions, major renovations, new construction.

Only members of First Lutheran Church, Pontiac, IL can apply. A member is as described in the Constitution of the congregation; C8.02 a,b,c.

Applications can be picked up in the First Lutheran Church office. Applications need to be returned by **November 30, 2022**. The Foundation board will review all applications and will start to distribute grant money in February, 2023.

Any questions, please contact any member of the foundation Dr. Jim Day, Chad Frank, Dave Harding, Rick Hiatt, Collins Miller, Mark VanHovel, and Chris Lauritzen.



October at Noah's Ark

We have 54 students who are currently enrolled and attending Noah's Ark so far this year! We still have room for more students, so please tell your family and friends! We can enroll students at any time during the school year!

We added the option of 3 year olds being able to enroll the month AFTER they turn 3! We are so excited to be adding this option to our classroom environment!

The 3 year old classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-10:15 and 10:30-12:30.

The 4 year old classes are held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:15-11:15 and 11:45-2:45.

Our staff for this school year consists of Breanne Immke as the Director and 4-year-old teacher. Ashley Grove as the 3 year old teacher (she will start in January after she finishes her Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education), and Alison Kelly is staying on our team as a teacher qualified aide for the 3 year olds. Mrs. Immke will teach the 3-year-old class from September until we leave for Christmas Break in December 😊! We are excited for Miss Grove to join our Noah's Ark family; she interned here while in High School at PTHS and is passionate about the lives of our young children!

We have an amazing new addition in our classroom (OUR SMARTBOARD) and we have been utilizing and getting to know it well these past couple weeks! Our friends enjoy learning how to make our letters correctly; our friends love listening to calming music during playtime, and centers. We also utilize it to do "dance" parties at the end of the day with GoNoodle (kids dance app).

We have started working on some Fall activities, and so far our friends have worked through the letters F, E, and I. They are also working hard to recognize their names in print; our goal is for our 3's to recognize their names without a photo by Christmas Break! 😊 We will continue to work on Fall activities through the month of October and talk about the changing seasons!

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR GRANT WE USED TO PURCHASE THIS AWESOME UPGRADED CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY!! : 😊

*Our primary goal is to ensure the safety of our students; parents and teachers while at the same time promote a **positive and fun** preschool experience! We pray for a healthy and safe school year for all of our students and staff!*

Thank you for your support here at Noah's Ark!

Breanne Immke

Director of Noah's Ark Preschool

Please contact me at pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com for any questions!

Check out our Facebook page too!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery through adult meets at 9:15 each Sunday.

COMFORTING (QUILTING) LADIES: meets to "work" downstairs in the large Sunday School room on Thursdays from 9-11 am.

ANNA CIRCLE: Will meet on Thursday, October 6, 2022, @ 1 pm in the Munson Room. Our current Bible study is "Encouraging One Another". We will be studying Chapter 9—"One Another" Actions (pg 63-69). Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us for Bible study and fellowship on the first Thursday afternoon of each month. Questions—please call Lynnette @ 815/796-3216.

KNITWITS: *Knitwits has resumed on most Tuesdays from 9:30—11 am*

JOYFUL WOMEN: Joyful Women will be returning on Sunday, Oct 9 @ 6:30 pm in the Munson Room. Our new series will be "The Twelve Disciples" by Douglas Connelly. Our final evening will be Nov 14 with Pastor Ours joining us to share his pastoral perspective on the Disciples of Jesus. Joyful Women is open to ALL adult women and friends of First Lutheran and we look forward to seeing everyone. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Sue Hiatt @ 815/844-7933 or Vicki Day @ 815/844-5420.

Please Note:

If you have submitted a name for the prayer list & would like them to receive a "Thinking of You" card, please provide the church office with a good address so that the volunteer coordinator can mail the card to the proper address.

Also, please update the office if/when the name on the prayer list can be removed (or any "address" changes).

Thank you.

~Beth Ray~





Lutheran World Relief

Mission/Social Committee Project: LWR School Kits

We are reaching the end of our collection of school supplies for Lutheran World Relief, and the committee will begin assembling the kits within the next week or two. It's not too late for any last-minute purchases!

At this time, no pencils or crayons are needed, but we are always in need of the 70-sheet spiral notebooks, the blunt scissors, and the small pencil sharpeners.

Again, thank you so VERY much for your continued support of this worthwhile project.

We appreciate the generosity of our Family at First!!!

Linda Frank, School Kit Chair



First Lutheran Church will be having a Living Nativity presentation on December 18th, for 2 performances. More information will be coming in the November newsletter. Anyone interested in helping in any way should contact Julie Rapp.



Food Pantry Needs

Thank you to all who have continued to generously donate food and supplies to the

Livingston Area Food Pantry during the coronavirus pandemic. The pantry has remained open with limited hours and drive-through pick ups to ensure the safety of the workers and clients. The mission and social committee continues to monetarily support the pantry, especially during these difficult times when so many are unemployed and money is tight. During the month of **September** we will collect (especially personals) **laundry soap, dish soap, bar soap, female hygiene products (sanitary napkins & tampons), toilet paper, facial tissues, paper towels, COMPLETE pancake mix, & syrup.** And, as always, any food or “non-essential” item is appreciated. All donated items should be **NON-PERISHABLE & NOT OUTDATED**, please. The Pantry is **CURRENTLY** in need of **EVERYTHING** (except canned vegetables and peanut butter).

I realize the list is long. Please feel free to choose as few or as many items as you wish. Moreover, the pantry encourages us to purchase items inexpensively at Dollar Tree and Dollar General.

The church is open daily (M-F) from 8:00 am-3:30 pm. The grocery carts are located in the fellowship hall & by the ramp door, and I check them weekly to make deliveries to assist in feeding our community members. I truly appreciate the support members of First Lutheran have given to our pantry for so many years. Bless you all for your generous and giving hearts! ~~Chris Lauritzen~~



Questions?? Please contact Jessica Warren for updates.

October Birthdays

Keagan Hall	10/1	Cullen Marsack	10/9	Kley Lucas	10/19
Sandra Schade	10/1	Shelly Miller-Koeller	10/9	Jane Yates	10/19
Fred Shirley	10/1	Jeff Hall	10/10	Kimberly Schneeman	10/21
Mary Lou Jones	10/2	Andrew Kelly	10/10	Heidi Kelly	10/23
Diana Alvey	10/4	Justin Puryear	10/11	Lowell Alvey	10/24
Jackson Roper	10/4	Samantha Mehrkens	10/13	Catherine Mitchell	10/24
Cheryl Weber	10/4	Dieter Hall	10/14	Jameson Diemer	10/24
Gracianna Dennis	10/5	Kelly Villier	10/14	Donna Henkel	10/24
Karen Robinson	10/5	Claire Corrigan	10/15	Carol Jones	10/24
DeAnn Dennis	10/6	Darrel Johnson	10/16	Isaac Torkelson	10/27
Karen Jordan	10/7	Al Seggerman, Jr	10/16	Mackenzie Coates	10/28
Paige Olson	10/7	Heidi Smith	10/17	Trinity Smith	10/28
Danelle Schulta	10/8	Greg Weber	10/18	Cindy Rodriguez	10/31
Jerry Burnside	10/9	Sue Hiatt	10/19		

2022/2023 CONFIRMATION CLASS

The class is set to begin at 7 pm on September 14th, but this could change depending on how Pastor Ours is feeling by then.

There are 4 students in the 8th grade class and 5 students in the 7th grade class.

REMINDER—If you wish to make a contribution to the church and are uncomfortable/unable to attend in person, you may mail it or drop it off between 8 am & 3:30 pm

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study will return at 9:30 am and 6 pm on Wednesdays beginning *October 12th.*

Prayer Works



Please Pray for our Members & Friends:

Robbie Becker, Phyllis Bradley, Sharon Carr, Deb Follmer, Kerry Foster, Shelley Hodgson, Mary Ann Johnson, Carol Jones, Jim Jones, Jean Millier, Mike Muzzarelli, Durelle & Marilyn Pritchard, Rupert & Cindy Rodriguez, Cheryl Weber, Stephen Weber, Cindi Arnold, Pastor Gabe Baumgardner, Jonathan Becker, Charoletta Bergin, Windy Birch, Sam Carlson, Debbie Clardy, Katy Edwards, Marsha Follet-Pauly, Patty Fox, Pauline Gibson, Mike Gillispie, Katherine Harding, Wolf Knappe, Bill Liptak, Owen Lyons, Chris Miller, Jakob Miller, Rochelle Nolan, Stacy Nutgrass, Michael O'Shea, David Robinson, Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Francis Schumacher, Jr., Gail Shaffer, Kathy Telford, Bethany Williams, & Pat & Jerry.

CHILDREN: Finn Bennett, Elliot Buchheit, Lucy McKinley, Hunter Melvin, & Jalene Woolford.

Let us pray for the following members

Evenglow Lodge: Blanche Swedlund, Harley & Marian Mayer

Evenglow Inn: Delores Schultz

The Pointe: Judy L Sykes & Maurine Kalkwarf

Homebound: Phyllis Bradley, Stephen Weber, & Jim Jones

HIPAA Laws...Because of the HIPAA Laws, if you would like the Pastor to visit you in the hospital, **you must call the church office** (or have the Chaplain at the hospital call the office).

Meetings in October

Monday, Oct. 3 @ 6:30 pm
Euchre

Sundays @ 6:30 pm
Joyful Women (begins 10/9)

Wednesdays @ 9:30 am & 6 pm
Adult Bible Study (begins 10/12)

Wednesdays @ 7 pm
Confirmation (not on 10/5)

Thursdays @ 9 am
Comforting Ladies (Quilters)

Thursdays @ 6 pm
Choir

Thursday, Oct. 6 @ 1 pm
Anna Circle

Tuesday, Oct. 11 @ 7 pm
Church Council

Saturday, October 15 @ 9 am
Great Rivers Mission District Annual Convocation @ FLC

Sunday, Oct. 16 @ 2:30 pm
Pastor—Chapel @ Good Samaritan

Monday, Oct. 17 @ 9:15 am
Bible Study @ The Pointe

Monday, Oct. 17 @ 6:30 pm
Euchre

Saturday/Sunday, Oct 22/23
Quilt Dedication Weekend—all services

Monday, Oct. 24 @ NOON
Newsletter Deadline

Friday, Oct. 28 @ 9:00 am
Newsletter Assembly

COMING IN DECEMBER

Cantata & Living Nativity—2 performances

ANNA CIRCLE

Anna Circle will meet on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 1 pm in the Munson Room. Our current Bible study is "Encouraging One Another". We will be studying Chapter 9—"One Another" Actions (pg 63-69). Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us on the first Thursday afternoon of each month for Bible study and fellowship.

If you have any questions, please call Lynnette at (815) 796-3216.

Comforting (Quilting) Ladies

It is that annual time of the year when our finished quilts are delivered to the Lutheran World Relief pick-up site for transportation to their warehouse. Quilt weekend at First Lutheran will be on October 22 & 23. We will place the quilts on the church pews for the congregational blessing. Then, the quilts will be gathered, packed and delivered to Bloomington on Saturday, October 29. We will be sending 50+ quilts to LWR. The Comforting Ladies cannot say "THANK YOU" enough times to individuals and families for all of the donations of fabric, crochet thread, sewing thread, sewing machines and cabinets, quilt frame, etc. that we have received to use for the quilt ministry. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please join us any Thurs. morning from 9-11 am in the large SS room.

JOYFUL WOMEN OF FIRST

Joyful Women of First Lutheran will begin a new Bible study series on Sunday, Oct 9th at 6:30 pm in the Munson Room. Our new series is "The Twelve Disciples" by Douglas Connelly. We will cover one or two of the 12 each week and, on our last Sunday evening (11/14), Pastor Ours will join us to share his pastoral perspective on the Disciples of Jesus. Each week our Bible study will conclude with dessert and a time for fellowship. As each week is a new topic, there is no concern for missed weeks based on each person's schedule. Books are under \$10 and have been ordered. Joyful Women is open to ALL adult women and friends of First Lutheran. We look forward to seeing everyone. If you have questions, please feel free to call Sue Hiatt @ 815/844-7933 or Vicki Day @ 815/844-5420.

JAZZ AMBASSADORS OF THE US ARMY FIELD BAND TICKETS (FREE)

The Army Jazz Ambassadors Band will be performing on Saturday, November 12 at 7:30 pm at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts (BCPA). There are 15 tickets available on a first-come, first-serve basis. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the church office. Please sign up there with your phone number, and if you are willing to drive or need a ride. More tickets may be available, so a waiting list will also be on the bulletin board.

PONTIAC LIGHT-UP PARADE

First Lutheran Church is planning on entering our Nativity float in the Pontiac Light Parade on Friday, November 25th (the day after Thanksgiving). This float needs a few essential items to participate. At this time, we have a trailer, truck & driver for the parade route, but we still need a few hands to pull it together at 3 pm Friday in the church parking lot, and a few hands to take it down when the parade is over (approx. 7 pm) back at the church. We also will need 6 bales of straw. Our float with the Nativity that was made by Harley Mayer gives our church visibility in the community and is a reminder to those watching of the true meaning of Christmas as the holiday season begins. PLEASE call Vicki @ 815/844-5420 if you are able to lend a hand on Friday or have straw for the float.

KNITWITS UPDATE—FALL 2022

While we focus mostly on prayer shawls, we also provide mittens, hats, scarves in the winter, and baby blankets which are included in layettes that are given to new mothers in need in our community. Knitwits meets most Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11 am in the Munson room from fall through spring. All are welcome to join us, and while it helps if you have basic knitting and/or crocheting skills, we do our best to help beginners develop their skills.

Shawls: Shawls should be at least 60” long and about 24” wide. They need to be long enough to easily wrap around shoulders or be long enough to cover a person taking a nap. Triangle shaped shawls are pretty, but haven’t been as useful to our recipients.

Baby blankets: should be at least 40” x 40”

Hats, mittens, & scarves: There is a bag in the knitwits cabinet labeled for the mitten tree. When the tree goes up in December, we will place those items on it.

Yarn has been donated to us and is available for anyone wishing to make items for our ministry.

Please wash all items before donating them. Thank you.

Anyone may request that a prayer shawl be given. There are guidelines for how to document them and how to wrap them posted inside our cabinet.

Any questions, call Sue Hiatt @ 815/848-7935 (cell) or 815/844-7933 (home).

Thank you for sharing Christ’s love with others.

CARING MINISTRY UPDATES

On Thursday, October 27th (at a time to be announced in First Notes), Megan Mowery BSN-RN CHPN Palliative Care Coordinator @ OSF Healthcare, will present a program on “Advanced Healthcare Planning” at First Lutheran Church.

This is a presentation on the importance of advanced directives and discussing your wishes with family members, ensuring that they understand what you would want in the event you are unable to make decisions for yourself.

- 1) Illinois Power-of-Attorney for Healthcare Information.
- 2) Definitions of life-prolonging interventions
- 3) The courses of common life-limiting diseases
- 4) Patient and family discussion record
- 5) IDPH Uniform Practitioner Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment form

Additionally, in November, the Caring Ministry will sponsor a visit from an attorney who specializes in senior care and on another date will be a presentation from a funeral home representative.

OUR TRIBUTE TO JESSE OURS

For the last two years First Lutheran Church has honored Jesse Ours with the Jesse's Ride for PTSD event. Although we are not having a Jesse's Ride event this year, that does not mean that we cannot honor Jesse, his service (& his sacrifice) by continuing our financial support of our local veterans and the Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc. (LMVFM) in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The generosity of our First Lutheran family and sponsorships provided a majority of the profits of our Jesse's Ride events. To that effort, we are sponsoring a sale of RADA cutlery. This cutlery company is based in the USA and shares 40% of the profit from our orders with Jesse's Ride at First Lutheran. Their products are good quality and would provide nice Christmas gifts. 😊 We will then divide the funds received from the sales between the Livingston County Veterans office for gift cards (that are used for urgent veterans needs locally), and the LMVFM in Fort Wayne, Indiana - an NALC mission organization.

To make a purchase of RADA cutlery, there are catalogs available in the Narthex of the church. There is a code on the front cover which indicates that the profit will be shared with Jesse's Ride. The Jesse's Ride web link for online ordering is:

["https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=5277177.b98beb"](https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=5277177.b98beb)

This link is also available on the Jesse's Ride for PTSD Facebook page. If you have any difficulty placing your order, please give Beth (in the church office) a call for assistance. All orders are sent directly to the address you designate or to your home.

If you feel that you do not need any of the products that RADA offers, but would still like to make a donation, you may use the designated envelopes in the pews to support these two organizations. Please make checks out to: First Lutheran Church, with a designation in the "notes" of Jesse's Ride. Thank you.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE

A counted cross-stitch project is beginning that will help with new decorations for the sanctuary Christmas trees. The "Styrofoam" cutouts are known as "Chrismons" and are beginning to break. Several patterns have been received for making counted cross stitch ornaments. The patterns and other information can be discussed with Sue Hiatt @ 815/848-7935 (cell) or 815/844-7933 (home). Once you have discussed with Sue, patterns are also available from Beth in the office.

Come join the fun every other Monday night



Mark your calendars for the first and third Mondays of the month. Spread the word. .

We will open doors at 6 pm, play begins at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$4/person

We want everyone who attends to feel safe and comfortable. Please do not attend if you do not feel well . If there are any questions, please direct them to Fred Shirley.

Oct 3 & 17

Nov 7 & 21

Dec 5 & 19

HOW TO WATCH OUR CHURCH SERVICES ONLINE:

YOUTUBE: www.firstlutheranyoutube.org

You can also subscribe to our YouTube channel by going to YouTube and searching for "Pontiac First Lutheran"

OUR CHURCH WEBSITE: <https://firstlutheranpontiac.org/live-stream/>

APPLE TV & ROKU: *Download an app called "Box Cast" and search for a channel called "Pontiac First Lutheran" Once you find it, make it one of your favorites and you can watch from your tv or phone!*

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pontiacfirstlutheran/>

Go to this link and request to be added to the group. Once you are added you will get notifications of our next service and see past services!

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/FirstPontiac>

If you have the twitter app, search for "First Pontiac" and you can 'follow' us on Twitter!



First Lutheran Church
Worshiping Christ - Serving Our Neighbor



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



OCTOBER
2022

“Worshiping Christ, Serving Our Neighbor”

Weekend Worship Schedule

Sat. 5:30 pm

Sun. 8:00 am

Sun. 10:30 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Our Staff

Pastor: Carlin Ours
Office Admin: Beth Ray
Acct: Angel Hall
Custodian: DeAnn Dennis
Vol. Coord: Beth Ray
Choir Dir: Joseph Durbin

2022 Congregational Council:

Stewart Alvey, President	Jim Drengwittz
Michael Carlson, V. President	Brian Friedman
Jane Yate, Secretary	Mary Ann Johnson
Treasurer	Kori Mehrkens
Michelle Janssen, Fin. Secretary	Julie Rapp
Jeff Bressner	Cathy Robinson
	Fred Shirley